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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 DHA-02 NSC-05 L-03 H-01
SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 /028 W
----------064414 171035Z /23
O 171005Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3432

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, BU
SUBJECT: DIMCHEV-GALFORD MARRIAGE CASE

REF: SOFIA 1771

1. A VERY DEPRESSED DIMCHEV VISITED EMBASSY ON AUGUST 16 TO INFORM US THAT PASSPORT OFFICE, SOFIA NOW CLAIMS THERE WAS A MISTAKE MADE ABOUT ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT TO HIM AND THAT AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET MADE DECISION IN HIS CASE. (COMMENT: IT SEEMS REASONABLY CLEAR THAT THE INITIAL PASSPORT OFFICE DECISION TO ISSUE PASSPORT HAS BEEN OVERTURNED AT A HIGHER LEVEL.)

2. BACKGROUND: DURING MORNING OF AUG 16, DIMCHEV CHECKED AT CONSULAR DEPT, MFA, FOR HIS PASSPORT TO LEARN THAT NO PASSPORT ON FILE. DIMCHEV VISITED PASSPORT OFFICE, SOFIA TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH SAME EMPLOYEE HE PAID FEES TO ON AUG 11. FEMALE EMPLOYEE DENIED SHE TOLD DIMCHEV THAT PASSPORT TO BE ISSUED. (COMMENT: PER REFTEL, DIMCHEV HAD PAID PASSPORT FEE OF 80 LEVA AND HOLDS RECEIPT WHICH STATES, "FEES COLLECTED FOR A PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL ABROAD TO THE USA". BULGARIAN PASSPORT FES ARE NOT RPT NOT COLLECTED UNTIL ISSUANCE APPROVAL GIVEN.)

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3. ACCORDING TO DIMCHEV, HE RAISED THE LEVEL OF INQUIRY AT THE PASSPORT OFFICE TO A SENIOR OFFICIAL, WHO SAID "THERE MAY BE SOME MISTAKE", AND TO CHIEF OF APPEALS SECTION, WHO SAID "FEMALE EMPLOYEE CALLED HER AFTER DISCUSSION WITH DIMCHEV ON AUG 11 TO SAY THERE WAS A MISTAKE". DIMCHEV CLAIMS HE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS WITH FEMALE COLLEAGUE OF FIRST EMPLOYEE AND WAS TOLD THAT AN

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APPROVAL WAS GRANTED IN HIS CASE. SHE STATED SHE KNEW OF THE APPROVAL FOR DIMCHEV'S MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS CASE NUMBER, MVR-00650, BUT SHE REFUSED TO VOUCH TO ANYONE OF HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPROVAL.

4. IN SUM, DIMCHEV INFORMED BY ALL OFFICIALS AT THE PASSPORT OFFICE THAT THERE A MISTAKE IN HIS CASE. HE HAS NOT BEEN REFUSED A PASSPORT, BUT PASSPORT OFFICE HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION. DIMCHEV INTENDS TO ATTEMPT TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE ON AUG 18 TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN HIS CASE.

5. COMMENT: IT OUR OPINION THAT THIS SUDDEN REVERSAL OF THE ISSUANCE APPROVAL FOR DIMCHEV DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY WILL OFFER PROPOSALS ON THIS CASE AFTER DIMCHEV'S INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEF OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE.
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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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